

See page 2 for Year of the NCO article.

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for July 22 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Hired!

A new Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program for teens ages 15 to 18, Hired!, is an apprentice program that lets teens explore positions in FMWR facilities, like the Bowling Center, golf course, community club, Outdoor Recreation, Library, Marketing Office, and more.

The program gives guidance on preparing a resume, teaches interview techniques and provides work experience in their chosen field. Teens will receive a stipend for their work at the end of the term. For details, contact Jay Mckinney, Jay.a.mckinney@us.army.mil or call 410-278-3250.

Teens: Got money?

A free financial class, which will teach teens ages 11 to 15 and 16 to 18 how to earn and save money will be held on Mondays, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Aug. 17 for four weeks at the Child, Youth See SHORTS, page 7

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Weissman reflects on career

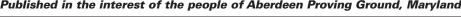




Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Russell B. Hall, director of the Installation Management Command Northeast Region, passes the garrison colors to the incoming garrison commander Col. Orlando W. Ortiz. Outgoing garrison commander Col. Jeffrey Weissman, center, and garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez, right, look on. The Directorate of Emergency Services color is pictured in the background.

Garrison changes hands Leadership of APG

RACHEL PONDER

After two years of service as Garrison and deputy installation commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman turned over his responsibilities to the incoming commander during a change of command ceremony at Fanshaw Field July 11.

Col. Orlando W. Ortiz assumed command from Weissman who is retiring after more than 26 years in the military.

The ceremony's host was Russell B. Hall, director of the Installation Management Command Northeast Region.

Janet Dettwiler, APG adjutant and narrator for the program, said that the ceremony is dedicated to the more than 1,200 Soldiers and civilians who work at APG.

"The garrison plays host to seventy tenant organizations spanning ten major Army commands," she said.

Instead of Soldiers, a display of garrison assets filled the parade field, representing a broad spectrum of the support provided by

"The garrison directorates work together to support the tenant missions at Aberdeen Proving Ground including extensive research, development and engineering, vehicle and weapon system testing, and training of more than ten thousand ordnance Soldiers, Airmen and Marines each year," she said. "The U.S. Army Garrison support also extends beyond the installation boundaries. The garrison works closely with local government agencies, community groups, emergency services agencies and county school systems in support of our surrounding community."

During Hall's remarks, he told the attendees that Weissman has been instrumental during the transformation of APG.

"Today is another step in that transformation that we are undergoing in our Army," Hall said, referring to base realignment and closure. "I look at [BRAC] as a great opportunity for [APG]; we are going to bring resources into this institution and improve its stance for our nation's endeavors. The outgoing commander is part of that transformation. He [Weissman] has established circumstances to make this transformation possible. And your incoming garrison commander is going to see it through to completion."

Hall said that he would like to also recognize the dedication of garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez, who was retiring later in the day after 30 years in the military. Hall remarked that this year is the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, and said that Rodriguez deserves the recognition.

"Command Sergeant Major Rodriguez, you have been the strong right arm of Colonel Weissman. I want to thank you for all that you have done to make this a great garrison," Hall said. "You are one of the great NCOs who support, inspire, train and motivate Soldiers across our Army, and you lead from the front."

Hall also acknowledged incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades for the support he will give Ortiz.

Hall said that Weissman's tenure at APG is a hallmark of achievement, among the most significant being the progress that the organizations have made under the umbrella of the BRAC Act of 2005 and other Army initiatives. Hall noted that the first BRAC project was the Route 715 Gate, which was completed in May.

Hall said that Weissman was also focused on quality of life concerns and was involved in planning for the future of all organizations on APG.

'He made sure that the quality of life facilities and programs kept pace with the physical construction," Hall said.

He said that Weissman was passionate and a thoughtful advocate for the installation and its people.

"[Weissman] has done a tremendous job as a garrison commander," Hall said. "He is one

of my top out of seventy-eight commanders. See COMMAND, page 17

Ready Army announces the 'Prepared Kids Competition'

The Ready Army program is sponsoring a new program, "Prepared Kids," the aim of which is to get younger Family members involved in the discussion about how to be ready for disasters.

"To make sure Families are involved, we are [providing] the kids with some fun activities to get them involved so that they talk to their parents," said Jim Platt, deputy director of the Army Protection Division. "It opens an avenue so they can talk to their parents and become the impetus for getting the program started."

"Prepared Kids" recognizes the creativity, strength and spirit of Army children by inviting everyone 18 years of age and younger to share their unique perspectives on the theme, Prepare Strong!

The idea is for Army children and teens to share their ideas for preparing for emergencies by creating individual works that highlight preparedness.

"Anywhere their imagination takes them, they can use to submit to the program, with the intent of helping other kids get ready," Platt said. "When you get the kids involved in this, it opens up a dialogue with parents and gets parents thinking about readiness."

Suggested focus areas include assembling an emergency sup-

ply kit, making a family emergency plan, preparing to take care of pets, being informed about the range of hazards and getting involved in community

activities to build preparedness. Children may enter as individuals or in groups. Entire classrooms are also welcome.

Children and teens can submit such things as a poem or song lyrics they have written, a short video, a poster, T-shirt or bookmark design, a personal story of experiencing an emergency, an essay or creative novella, a 30-second public service announcement for radio or television, a preparedness game, a drawing, a sculpture or musical piece or even computer software they have written.

Entries can be uploaded via the Ready Army Web site, www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/ra_prep_kids.htm.

Finalists will be loaded on the Ready Army Web site for open voting after Aug. 12 for one week. Winners will be announced during National Preparedness Month in September and their creations will be featured during 2010 as part of the Ready Army Campaign.

For more information articles, visit www.army.mil/ -news/2009/04/27/20229-kidsencouraged-to-participatein-disaster-preparedness/ or www.army.mil/-news/2009/04/02/ 19128-competiton-underwayfor-prepared-kids/.

Army limits re-enlistment options for remainder of fiscal year

Story by

C. TODD LOPEZ Army News Service

In an effort to slow the momentum of what has been an exceptionally productive year in recruiting and retention, the Army has limited re-enlistment options during the last three months of fiscal year 2009.

"Due to the Army's great success in growing the force and meeting and exceeding our retention mission, the Army has been taking steps to slow retention and overproduction for the remainder of the fiscal year," said Sgt. Maj. Dean Drummond, Army senior career counselor, G-1 Army Retention.

"These steps have included reductions in retention bonuses, reductions in the number of military occupational specialties eligible for a selective re-enlistment bonus, suspension of the retention mission and most recently, two-year re-enlistments."

In a DA retention policy message released June 25, the Army spelled out changes to re-enlistment option eligibility. According to the policy message, if Soldiers want to re-enlist between June 27 and Sept. 30, they may be limited to a two-year re-enlistment under the "Regular Army Reenlistment" option.

By the beginning of fiscal year 2010, which begins Oct.

1, the Army will rescind the policy memo and reinstate all regular re-enlistment options, Drummond said.

"The total concept of what we are doing, keeping five options available for Soldiers, is not going to change," Drummond said. "What this does is just eliminate the options that they may have been able to receive for the remainder of this year and move them until October first."

The four re-enlistment options off the table until the end of the fiscal year include the current station stabilization re-enlistment, the Army training re-enlistment, the overseas assignment re-enlistment and the continental United States station-of-choice re-enlistment.

According to the policy message, there are exceptions to the temporary policy. Soldiers scheduled to return before Oct. 31 from overseas contingency operations such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom are exempt and are entitled to all re-enlistment options.

"It does not affect those units," Drummond said. "We have a number of units out there from the brigade combat teams all the way down to battalion and company levels with unit identification codes that are deployed. Those Soldiers that are out there are eligi-

See RE-ENLISTMENT, page 8



celebrates The Year of the NCO



Ceremony honors garrison command sergeant major upon his retirement

RACHEL PONDER APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground community gathered to honor the retirement of the Garrison Command Sergeant Major at the Ball Conference Center July 11.

Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez will officially retire on Oct. 31 with 30 years of service in the Army.

Col. Jeffery S. Weissman, outgoing APG garrison and deputy installation commander, presided over the ceremony, and 1st Sgt. Larry Tyson from Headquarters and Headquarters Company assisted.

Chaplain (Col.) Ruben D. Colon Jr., installation chaplain, gave the invocation.

Aberdeen Proving Ground Adjutant Janet Dettwiller welcomed guests on behalf of Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

Music was provided by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band's Brass Quintet.

Detwiller said that throughout his career Rodriguez has held numerous positions and has lived all over the world. Rodriguez began his career in the personnel field, but changed to the chemical field. Prior to becoming the garrison command sergeant major, he was the command sergeant major for the 22nd Chemical Battalion at APG.

During the ceremony, Rodriguez was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious service as the garrison command sergeant major, the certificate of retirement from the Department of the Army and the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation for service in the Armed Forces.

received the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation and the Order of the Dragon from the 22nd Chemical Battalion.

During Weissman's remarks



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez gives final remarks during his retirement ceremony held at the Ball Conference Center July 10.

he said that throughout his career, Rodriguez demonstrated energy and dedication to Soldiers and the mission.

"He always thought about the Soldiers and the mission first," Weissman said, "while remaining dedicated to his Family."

Weissman added that he appreciates the sacrifices that Rodriguez's wife and his children have made.

Weissman said that when Rodriguez became garrison command sergeant major on July 12, 2007, he was energetic and ready to make improvements for the Soldiers.

"His passion is taking care of Soldiers," Weissman said.

Weissman called Rodriguez Rodriguez's wife, Majorie, his right hand man who accomplished everything he set out to do and was not afraid to take on challenges. He said that during his time as garrison command sergeant major there were many challenges at APG due to base

realignment and closure.

"He made sure the needs of the Soldiers were being met. He feverishly worked to increase the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families on the installation," he said. "[Rodriguez] was the best command sergeant major I have ever seen."

He added that he considers Rodriguez a great friend and confidant.

During Rodriguez's remarks he thanked many people for giving him support throughout his career, especially the support of his wife and children. He added that he is looking forward to spending more time with his Family.

"I look forward to spending the rest of my life with my wife, who has shown me endless support," he said.

Rodriguez said that he had many great mentors throughout his career who taught him how to be a leader and an NCO.

Rodriguez thanked his fellow command sergeant majors who serve on APG.

"You have made my job much easier," he said, "and I value your friendship. I couldn't have done my job without your support."

Rodriguez thanked Weissman, calling him his battle buddy.

"You have been a great commander and friend and treated me as an equal and a partner," he said. "I appreciate everything that you have done for me and Marjorie."

Rodriguez, who lives in Cecil County with his Family said that he plans on staying and working in area.

Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez

Rodriguez's career has taken him to assignments with the 101st Adjutant General Company, Fort Campbell, Ky.; 574th

Personnel Service Company, 3rd Armored Division, Hanau Germany; 31st Chemical Company, Fort Carson, Colo.; 87th Chemical Company, 2nd Armored Calvary Regiment (Desert Shield/Desert Storm, SWA) Nuremburg, Germany; HHC V CORPS, Frankfurt, Germany; 18th Military Police Brigade (Operation Joint Endeavor, Bosnia), Mannheim, Germany; 31st Chemical Company, Fort Hood, Texas; USACAP Chemical Company, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum N.Y.; HHC 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.; Dugway Proving Ground, Dugway, Utah and the 22nd Chemical Battalion, APG.

Rodriguez has served virtually in every enlisted leadership position and has held various positions with increasing levels of responsibility to include squad leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant, division chemical sergeant major, installation and garrison command sergeant major.

He attended the Primary Leadership Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, First Sergeant Course, Garrison Sergeant Major Course, and is a graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeant Major Academy Non-Resident Course, Class 28.

Rodriguez' awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 silver leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with 1 silver and 2 oak leaf clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (with 4 oak leaf clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (8th award), the National Defense Service Medal, Superior Unit Award (with 1 oak leaf cluster), NATO medal GWOT Medal, SW Asian Service Medal, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and various service ribbons.

Rodriguez is a member of both the Sergeant Morales and Sergeant Audie Murphy clubs. He is also a recipient of the Ancient Order of the Dragon and the 2nd Armored Calvary Regiment Leonard Award.



OMMAND SGT. MAJ.'S CORNER Commentary: Reflecting on pride of service

COMMAND SGT MAJ HECTOR G MARIN

Noncommissioned officers reflect pride of service every day, whether standing in front of a formation of new recruits or returning with their squad after a successful mission in the snowcapped mountains of Afghanistan. The pride NCOs have in their duty, their unit and their fellow Soldier is an absolute truth; we see it every day.

One organization that exemplifies that pride of service is the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Started at Fort Hood, Texas, in early 1986, the SAMC is an elite organization that recognizes NCOs who have excelled in integrity, professionalism, commitment, leadership abilities and personal ethics. It is an exclusive club created to honor NCOs who have acted in a manner exhibited by World War II's most decorated American Soldier, Audie Murphy.

Attempting to enlist after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Murphy was turned down by the Marines and the Navy for being slight of build before being accepted into the U.S. Army.

Determined to see combat, Murphy refused a transfer to cook and bakers' school and deployed to the European Theater in early 1943. During Murphy's two years in combat he earned the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts. His service set the standard for NCO accomplishment for generations to come.

With all of Murphy's decorations, the creation of the SAMC is arguably the greatest honor he ever received. It is recognition by fellow Soldiers and a sincere admiration by them for the accomplishments, determination and pride Murphy displayed for his country and service.

The mission, goals and vision vary from chapter-to-chapter, but are simply dedicated to improving tomorrow's Army and its Soldiers, in addition to improving and promoting greater recognition of the NCO Corps.

Eight years after the first SAMC was established, it has spread Army-wide. The club now has chapters located at

many posts in addition to Fort Hood. Commanders nominate their finest NCO leaders for selection as SAMC members. Candidates are screened by the unit to determine their leadership ability; training excellence (technical and tactical); care for Soldiers and Families; commitment to Army Values; demonstration of Warrior Ethos and adherence to the Soldier's Creed and NCO Creed.

Fort Benning inducted six NCOs last month at a ceremony in which Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, vice chief of staff for the Army, said "NCOs are what make our Army different from every other army in



the world. They are the heart and soul of the United States Army. And, when you get to see the ones I've seen here today training young recruits and making them Soldiers, it's a wonderful thing. It is truly an honor to be able to present these great NCOs with something they have justly deserved."

When the SAMC medallion is placed around an NCO's neck, he or she stands proud. It is recognition that NCOs past, present and future are the "backbone" of the Army.

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Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

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Weissman hails Soldiers, APG during June meeting

YVONNE JOHNSON APG News

For his final talk before the members and guests of the Aberdeen Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman said he wanted to speak informally about things that are important to the membership.

The June 15 meeting was held at the Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood and hosted by Mary Jane Jernigan, chapter president.

Weissman, the outgoing Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and deputy installation commander, was accompanied by outgoing Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez and his replacement, Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades.

Jernigan reminded members that the next meeting will be held during the 2nd Annual Soldier Appreciation Picnic at Capa Field July 21 and asked all to bring items to send to Soldiers in Iraq.

Installation Chaplain (Col.) Ruben Colon offered the invocation and the 61st Ordnance Brigade color guard, led by Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Purnell, posted and retired the colors.

Colorful renderings of current and future APG construction projects decorated the room where Weissman thanked the chapter for all it's done for APG Soldiers and their Families and then talked about America's "phenomenal Soldiers," from Normandy to Iraq.

Comparing the two conflicts, Weissman said it occurred to him that "what occurs in the Army today, prepares the next generation."

"We've been a nation at war for eight years," he said. "We've deployed [more than] a million service members and [more than] one-hundred-thirty thousand of our troops are fighting the Global War on Terror, all with an all-volunteer Army.

"It amazes me that after years of Soldiers pulling two and three tours, and with the sacrifices we're asking our Families to make - the fact that they are still accomplishing their mission is mind boggling. I think we have the next great set of leaders in the Army today."

He expressed admiration in the noncommissioned officers he's worked with and noted that the year 2009 was named the Year of the NCO by the Department of the Army.



"We truly have great NCOs [who] keep Soldiers well trained and well motivated," he said, before asking for a round of applause "for the NCOs here today."

Regarding the ongoing Transformation and APG 2012 initiatives, Weissand closure, is here and that all projects are on schedule.

He said that when he, Rodriguez and other garrison entities were faced with planning for the loss of Soldiers and an increase in civilians, they focused on improving services for Soldiers, civilians and their Families.

"We developed a vision, a plan and a counter plan to figure out how to do this," he said. "A lot of things happening today are focused on the quality of life here at APG, including services and ways to improve installation facilities."

He said that plans include revitalizing facilities for reuse and taking down unused structures and that the installation also has established partnerships with local community organizations such as AUSA, Harford and Cecil counties, private organiza-

man said that BRAC, base realignment tions and schools to benefit the APG community.

"Investments in our golf course, bowling center, gyms and youth centers are just the beginning of a very credible transformation," Weissman said. "You are all a part of that and unlike me you get to see the end of it."

Weissman recognized the APG Army Family Covenant signings during which local community members witnessed the Army's rededication to Soldiers and Families, and he expressed his thanks to the Harford County Chamber of Commerce, noting that during Military Appreciation Week each year, "the business community chips in as well in recognizing our Soldiers."

"We've always enjoyed a wonderful relationship," Weissman said, "and I would ask for your continued help in supporting the Soldiers and Families who continue to sacrifice for all of us."

Bennett breaks lift, squat record

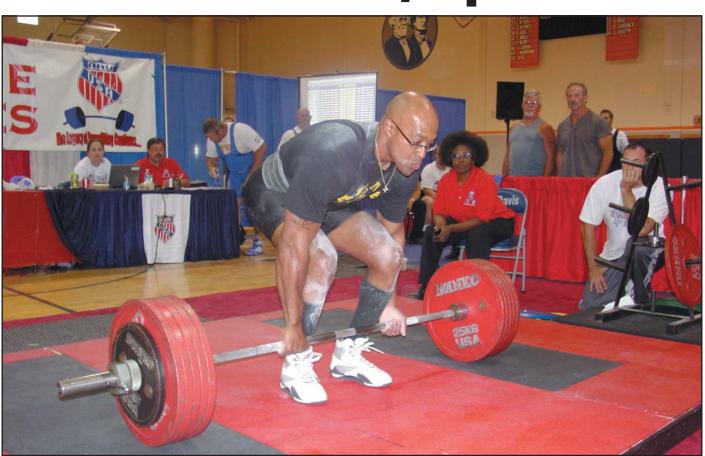


Photo courtesy of MICHAEL BENNETT

Michael Bennett, former sergeant major of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion Wheel and Track Automotive Department, successfully dead lifts 678pounds during a weightlifting competition in Mechanicsville, Va., May 31. Bennett broke records in his division for the successful lift as well as for a squat of 475 pounds. It was Bennett's final competition as an active duty Soldier. He retired June 30.

Commentary: 'The Hurt Locker,' a show and tell of an EOD Soldier's experiences

CAPT ROBERT A. BUSSEAU 20th Support Command (CBRNE)

"The Hurt Locker" is a film based on U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams stationed in Baghdad, Iraq, early in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The story focuses on an EOD Team Leader, Sgt. 1st Class William James, when he replaces a fallen comrade on the last leg of a one-year tour.

James' cavalier, somewhat dangerous style, is difficult on his already shaken team members. "The Hurt Locker" details their last few weeks in theater.

Author Mark Boal did a decent job of capturing the touch and feel of Iraq as it was for me in 2003. This is not surprising since he spent several weeks embedded with U.S. Army EOD during a 2004 deployment.

James was significantly over the top, and I have the impression that he was a conglomeration of personal quirks from multiple Soldiers.

The actions of the EOD team seemed heroic, risking their lives to remove explosive devices, but are actually the unnecessary risks of an adrenaline junkie.

In one instance James approaches a

suspect vehicle wearing an EOD bomb our actions on safety, taking risks only suit. Upon discovering the 20-odd 155mm projectiles loaded into the trunk, he throws his suit to the ground muttering, "If I am going to die, I am going to die comfortable." While the bomb suit will not protect a person from such a massive blast at ground zero, the blast danger drops significantly with every step away. At short distances, the bomb suit can make the difference between life and death.

Personally, I would remove a Soldier like James from military service at the earliest possibility.

EOD is successful because we base

when absolutely necessary. Pulling projectiles out of the ground by a knot of detonation cord, as James did, may have looked like an expedient solution, but it's a really good way to kill yourself, your team and innocent civilians.

James is not the type of Soldier that we would want in any EOD formation. It is far better to be safe than lucky.

The film did well at avoiding the political side of Iraq and focusing on the journey of EOD Soldiers. There were times that I could put names on the personalities being portrayed. However, I was a little put off by the rampant display of post traumatic stress disorder. Every character, including James' wife, was displaying severe PTSD.

While PTSD is a concern, not all Soldiers experience or display symptoms of it in such clarity. The movie gave the impression that everyone who had deployed was "damaged goods."

All in all, I enjoyed the film. It was intense action - over the top at times and maintained my interest up until the disconnected ending.

Law school available to junior officers

Installation Legal Office

The Office of the Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education program. Under this program, up to 25 Army officers may be selected to attend law school at government expense while on active duty.

Selected participants in the FLEP will attend law school at either their state's supported school or a school that grants military members in-state tuition beginning the fall of 2009 and remain on active duty while attending law school.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility.

This program is open only to active duty commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain and applicant must have at least two but not more than six years of active duty at the time legal training commences.

Further eligibility requirements are governed by statute (10 U.S.C. 2004) and are non-waiverable.

Selected officers will attend law school at a state-supported school in their state of residence or a school that grants military members in-state tuition. Register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test.

Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at Army Human Resources Command, with a copy furnished to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Yvonne Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received before Nov. 1.

Submission of the application well in advance of the deadline is advised.

Interested officers should contact Maj. Richard Hatfield, deputy staff judge advocate, or Nora L. Farrell, paralegal specialist, 410-278-1112/1107, respectively.



Hot wash!



Photo by ROGERTEEL

Specialist Amber Inmon gets a hand-held hose down from Staff Sgt. Regaud Julien as Sgt. David Williamson, left, briefs a delegation of Israeli Army officers and other visitors on chemical decontamination procedures. The demonstration was part of a 20th Support Command (CBRNE) Capability Exercise (CAPEX) held July 1 at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Visitors toured several sites, including mobile laboratories from the CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity and equipment displays by Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Elements and the command's Nuclear Disablement Team. The 20th SUPCOM routinely conducts CAPEX to educate and inform audiences of command capabilities and equipment. The Soldiers -- Inmon, Julien and Williamson -- are assigned to Company A, 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort). CBRNE is the acronym for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives.

Three retire during June ceremony

Story by **RACHEL PONDER** APG News

One Soldier and two civilians totaling more than 77 years of experience formally ended their careers during a retirement ceremony at the Ball Conference Center June 30.

Brig. Gen. Lynn A. Collyar, chief of Ordnance and commanding general, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, presided over the ceremony and presented awards to the honorees assisted by APG Garrison Command Sgt. Major Pedro Rodriguez.

The retirees included Col. Jeffery S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander; H. Stephen Fender, Directorate of Information Management and Johnnie M. Ashley,

Aberdeen Proving Ground Adjutant Janet Dettwiler welcomed guests on behalf of Maj. Gen. Paul. S. Izzo, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

The U.S. Army Materiel Command Band's brass quintet provided music for the ceremony and Chaplain (Maj.) Fred Townsend presented the invocation.

Collyar congratulated each of the retirees for reaching a significant milestone in their lives, highlighting achievements of the retirees.

He said that each has contributed to the Army's successes and achievements and have provided years of loyal service.

Collyar added that he also appreciated the dedication of the retiree's spouses.

He commented that each of the retirees will continue to use their experience to serve in their communities, either by working or volunteering.

Collyar said that Fender has a long history of being an active volunteer in the local community.

"He will be a very productive member of this community for a long time," he said. "Every community needs guys like Steve."

Collyar commented that Weissman is a talented individual, and has played an important part in overseeing base realignment and closure projects.

"He is an extremely capable and competent manager," he said. "He can see where we are today and where we are going in the future."

Collyar said that Ashley demonstrated commitment to his job by advancing to the level of master instructor while earning a degree in automotive engineering technology while working at OC&S.

"You showed dedication to the Army throughout your career," Collyar said.

Col. Jeffery S. Weissman

Weissman was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement and the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation.

Weissman, who was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., was commissioned a second lieutenant, Air Defense Artillery from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1983.

He has held numerous assignments in the continental United States, culminating in his last assignment as APG garrison and deputy installation commander, the position he has held since July 12, 2007. He officially retires from active duty status on Oct. 31, with more than 26 years of dedicated service.

Weissman has held a variety of command and staff positions during his career, including commander, 515th Ordnance Company and S3, 832nd Ordnance Battalion; maintenance management officer, 24th Corps Support Group; support operations officer, 87th Corps



Col. Jeffery S. Weissman

Support Battalion; combat service support observer/trainer at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., assistant secretary of the General Staff and executive officer to the Chief of Staff, USAREUR, Heidelberg, Germany, and commander, 187th Ordnance Battalion, Fort Jackson, S.C., from 2001 to 2003. He then came to APG as the ordnance proponency officer at OC&S from 2003 to 2004. After graduating from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., in 2005, he served in Baghdad, Iraq, for a year as the Multi-National Forces-Iraq Base Closure and Transition chief, followed by his assignment as G4 at the Pentagon as the chief of Maintenance Policy.

Weissman's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Amy Superior Unit Award, the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Medal and the Overseas Service Medal.

Weissman is married to Vickie Brockman and together they have six children, Erin, Nicole, Benjamin, Ashley, Rachel and Joseph. His plans after retirement are to move to Alabama; enjoy Family, golf and boating. (See accompanying article as Weissman reflects on his military career, page 17.)

H. Stephen Fender

Fender was awarded the DA Superior Civilian Service Award and certificates of retirement and appreciation.

Fender, who goes by Steve, was born in Wilmington, Del., in 1942. He graduated from Bel Air High School in 1960. He entered the University of Maryland and, after several years, accepted positions in the private sector before returning to college to complete his studies. In 1974, he graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree. He completed a six-year term of enlistment in the Maryland Air National Guard as a staff sergeant, E-5. He was employed as a department manager for a major Baltimore retail organization before beginning his civil service career in APG.

Shortly after beginning work at APG, Fender entered an intern program at OC&S as a program analyst. He introduced desktop computing to the OC&S and assisted with the automation of a broad range of administrative functions. In 1986, he accepted a position with the OC&S. In 1989, he transferred to the Information Systems Command Aberdeen which later became today's Directorate of Information Management. He introduced the first cellular services contract available on a post-wide basis which offered deeply discounted rates and a variety of capabilities which led to the advent of the APG mobile office. He now serves as the directorate's principal



H. Stephen Fender

purchasing agent.

Fender has received letters of appreciation as well as performance, monetary and special act awards for his work efforts. He will retire Aug. 1 with 28 vears of dedicated service.

Fender is a past treasurer of the Bel Air Junior Chamber of Commerce, past vice president of the Lions Club of Bel Air and an eight-year member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Harford County. In January, he will begin a two-year term as a trustee of his church.

Fender said that he plans to stay active in his retirement.

"I am looking forward to a new chapter in my life," he said. "I have a new agenda, I will be working on several different projects."

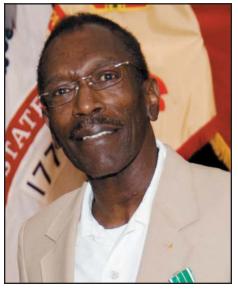
Fender's post-retirement plans include expansion of Historical Society responsibilities, working in elder advocacy, teaching elements of 20th century history and some occasional travel.

Johnnie M. Ashley

Ashley was awarded the DA Superior Civilian Service Award and certificates of retirement and appreciation.

Ashley was born near the small southeastern town of Fair Bluff, N.C., where he attended elementary school. He graduated from Westside High School in Chadbourn, N.C., in June of 1965 and joined the Army a few months later, which was at the time of the peak of the Vietnam War.

After completing Basic and Advanced Individual Training and spending nine months at Fort Hood, Texas, he was deployed to the Asia part of Turkey to join a special weapons detachment along with the Turkish Army and the U.S. Air Force. He returned to the United States for a short period and was deployed to Germany. He was deployed back and forth from the United States to Germany three times and was assigned jointly with the British Army for one year while in Germany. He was sent to Korea near the end of his military career and finally to a maintenance school at Fort Jackson, S.C. He retired from the U.S. Army in October 1985 with more than 20 years service.



Johnnie M. Ashley

After his military career he became a full-time student at Harford Community College.

In May 1986, Ashley became an employee of OC&S as a Department of the Army civilian working as an instructor/writer at the Advanced Individual Training Department in the Edgewood Area and at the New Equipment Branch and Professional Development in the Edgewood Area and at the New Equipment Branch in the Aberdeen Area. He was tasked for temporary duty assignments quite often and traveled throughout the United States. He advanced to the level of master instructor and earned a degree in automotive engineer technology while working at the schools.

Ashley has received the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service along with numerous other awards and commendations during his dedicated career. Ashley retired on June 6 with a little more than 23 years at the schools.

Ashley said that he found his work there to be meaningful and enjoyable and that he is satisfied with what he achieved in his career.

"I have accomplished very much in areas where I can be helpful in the military and in the civilian community," he

Ashley said that he enjoys traveling to different countries and meeting new

"I consider myself international," he said. "I get along with all sorts of people."

He and his wife, Helga, have been married for 38 years. Their home is in Edgewood. They plan on continuing to travel within the United States and going abroad occasionally to visit his wife's native homeland in the European "old country."

Community Notes

THURSDAY JULY 16 KARAOKE/LADIES NIGHT

Thirsty Thursdays is back at Charlton-Miller Veterans of Foreign War Post 6054 located at 206 Spesutia Road, Perryman. Show off those singing skills at Karaoke Night, 7 p.m. No cover charge. Happy hour is 5 to 9 p.m.

For more information, call 410-272-3444.

SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under age 10. The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats and upper Chesapeake Bay. Reservations are required.

For more information or to make reservations, call 410-939-4078.

FRIDAY

JULY 17 PICAROONS OF HAVRE DE GRACE

Join the crew of the Skipjack Martha Lewis for adventure, fun and plunder as they learn about pirates of the Chesapeake Bay called 'picaroons' from the Spanish picaroon, a rogue. Children ages 8 to 12 can join the crew of the Martha Lewis, 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$15 per person.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

FRIDAY FLOATING FEASTS

Unwind from a week of work and camp with dinner on the water - the Water Strider Pontoon Boat that is, with Family or friends. Meet at the Estuary Center - all trips will depart from the Otter Point Marina due to low tides. This program will be held 6 to 8 p.m. for ages 30 lbs. to adult. The cost is \$10 per person or \$35 per Family (limit five per Family). Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Margaritaville Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 per person (21 years of age or older). Set sail

with island tunes, light refreshments, Margaritas, beer and soda included. Reservations are required.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

SATURDAY

JULY 18 LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a narrated lighthouse cruise, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., aboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$35 for adults and \$17 for children ages 10 and under. Reservations are required. Cost includes a three-hour cruise enjoying water views of three area lighthouses: Concord Point, Fishing Battery Island and Turkey Point. A box lunch is also included.

For more information, for reservations or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

LOWTIDE EXPLORATIONS

Cool off walking along the beautiful shoreline of Otter Point Creek. This free program will be held 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for all ages. Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

POST-SIESTA PADDLE

Canoe the creek in the late afternoon as critters start to stir after their afternoon siesta. This program will be held 5 to 7:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

BASKET AND PURSE BINGO

Basket and Purse Bingo to benefit the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, 3-Day Walk will be held at Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen. Doors open at 6, game begins at 7. Tickets cost \$12 in advance, \$15 at door. Bring a canned good and/or non-perishable for bonus prize ticket.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332 or Colleen Robbins, 443-504-5849.

SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$12 for children ages 10 and under. The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area for a relaxing sail and sunset. Reservations are required.

For more information, for reservations or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

VFW POST 6054 CELEBRATES ITS FIRST FEMALE COMMANDER

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054 located on 206 Spesutia Road, Perryman, will celebrate the election of its first female commander at noon. Sharon Snead is also the first African American female VFW Post commander in the state of Maryland.

There will be music and dinners priced under \$10 and community involvement. The public is welcome to join in this celebration and learn more about the VFW programs, mission and other community organizations.

For more information, call 410-272-3444.

SUNDAY

JULY 19BIRDING BY PONTOON BOAT

Join birder Phil Powers on a search for the beautiful marsh birds of Otter Point Creek. This program will be held 9 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 10 to adult. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 children. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

ALLTIED UP

Have fun with basic knot tying. Scouts will find this useful. This free program will be held 3 to 4 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY SUNDAE

Join the Skipjack Martha Lewis for a Sunday Sundae Cruise, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening sail. Passengers can create their own ice cream sundaes from local ice cream shops. Cost is \$15 per person. Reservations are required.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

MONDAY JULY 20 MARTHA'S TREASURE HUNTERS

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a cruise, 9 to 11 a.m., for children only, ages 6 to 8. Children become pirates of the Bay aboard the skipjack Martha Lewis in search of sunken treasure. Children will read a treasure map and help navigate the boat to find the treasure. Tickets cost \$15 per child. Reservations are required.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

GUNPOWDER TOASTMASTER'S CLUB MEETING

The Gunpowder Toastmaster's Club meets the first and third Monday of each month (except federal holidays) in the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility building E-4516, assembly room B1, 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

Learn to speak confidently and effectively. Toastmaster's mission is to help people improve their communication, leadership, evaluation, and public speaking skills in a fun, friendly and supportive environment.

For more information, call Adam Freeland, 410-652-8026, or George Alsfeld, 410-569-1189.

TIDEWATER GRILL HORS D'OEUVRES CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer fine dining with a Tidewater Grill Hors D'oeuvres Cruise, 4 to 9 p.m. aboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis. An open house will be held at 4 p.m.; sailing time will be 7 to 9 p.m. The Skipjack will depart from the Tidewater Grill with special treats from the chef, wine, beer and sodas. Cost is \$40 per person. Reservations required. For more information or for reserva-

(Editors Note: More calendar events can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army. mil under Community Notes.)

tions, call 410-939-4078.

Post Shorts

and School Services Conference Room, building 2752, with snacks provided.

This class is part of a new FMWR program called The Edge, which is designed to highlight opportunities for children and youths, in grades 1 through 12, to Experience, Develop, Grow and Excel in FMWR partner facilities.

To attend, sign-up at the CYSS Central Registration, building 2752.

For more information, contact Chuck Rose, 410-278-1399 or chuck.rose1@ us.army.mil. Free transportation to and from the Aberdeen Youth Center will be

Final briefings on Senior Civilian Talent Pool today

Today is the final day to attend a senior leaders (GS-15 equivalents) Civilian Talent Management Program briefing 10 a.m. or 1 p.m., July 16, at the RDECOM Conference Center, building E-4810.

Through the program, the Army continues to build a bench of interchangeable and agile civilian leaders. The new structure aligns senior civilian management at the GS-15 level with that of colonels, generals and those in the Senior Executive Service - providing an enterprise view of leadership positions and the available pool of senior talent.

Civilian Talent Management fuses the Army's current and projected civilian leadership requirements with the individual employee's desires for reassignment and career growth.

For more information, e-mail DUSA.CTMO@conus.armv.mil or visit the Army News Service story on the program at http://www.army. mil/-news/2009/05/27/21682-armylaunches-program-to-advance-seniorcivilian-careers/.

Partial closure of Hoyle Fitness Center

Parts of the Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210, are closed while the hardwood floors in the facility are being refinished.

Areas affected include the issue room, basketball court, racquetball courts, weight area (behind the issue room), nautilus room, cardio room, boxing area, men's new locker rooms, ladies locker room and the sauna.

Patrons can enter the Hoyle Gymnasium on the east side (parking lot side) of the building about 50 feet to the right of the current entrance. The south side of

the facility will remain operational during this work.

The hours of operation will remain the same, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

KUSAHC closes for **Organization Day**

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will close 11 a.m., July 17 for Organization Day and re-open July 20.

Patients are asked to plan accordingly for medication pickup and medical needs.

RecruitMilitary Career Fair July 16

RecruitMilitary, the Presidents National Hire Veterans Committee, the American Legion, and the MSCCN (Military Spouse Corporate Career Network) will hold a free hiring event for veterans, personnel who are transitioning from active duty, Reserves, Guard and military spouses, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., July 16, at Citizens Bank Park (home of the Philadelphia Phillies), located on One Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia, Pa.

Meet with representatives that will include corporate employers, lawenforcement agencies and other government employers, franchisors, educational institutions, veterans service agencies, and veterans associations. Already in the line-up are Centura College, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, CSX Transportation, the Department of Veterans Affairs-Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service, DeVry University, Franchise Advisory Group, Home Helpers, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), LB & B Associates, Liberty Resources, Medco, New York Life, NewCourtland, Nixon Uniform Service & Medical Wear, Philadelphia Community College, Professional Recovery Systems, Prudential Insurance Company, Snap Fitness, Inc., the Social Security Administration, SOS International Ltd., Veterans Upward Bound, Wackenhut Corporation, and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

RecruitMilitary will produce the career fair in cooperation with The American Legion; HireVetsFirst, a unit of the United States Department of Labor; and

Dress for success, bring plenty of resumes and be prepared for on-the-spot interviews or applications.

For more information or to register

Chapel News

Pillars of a Godly Man Conference 2009 July 17-18

All men of Harford County are invited to attend the Pillars of a Godly Man Conference at the Edgewood Area Chapel, July 17 and 18. The subject of the conference is "Man from Dust to Spirit." Admission is free. Registration is required.

The conference is unique in that it provides audience-speaker dialogue and interaction in order to teach men how to shoulder each others' burdens, never to be alone again. The ultimate desire of the conference is to encourage men to leave committed to daily acts of courage, guiding them into a new and fresh journey.

God has placed everyone within this unique time for a specific purpose. What an incredible sight to witness men of strength and vision rise to pursue this challenge.

Walk-in registration will take place 5:30 to 6 p.m., July 17, in the main lobby. Participants should be seated in the sanctuary no later than 6:30

For more information, call Elder Larry Giles, 443-567-8934 (cell phone); 410-306-6054 (home); e-mail larry. gilessr@us.army.mil.

Note: Proper ID is required at APG

entrance.

as a job-seeker, visit www.recruitmilitary.com.

ACS to celebrate 44th **Birthday July 29**

Army Community Service will celebrate its 44th birthday with a picnic, face painting, balloon animals, cake, food, fun and festivities, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 29, at Maryland Boulevard Park. Free tickets are available at the Aberdeen Area ACS, building 2754.

For more information, 410-278-4372.

Trying out for the U.S. **Army parachute Team, the Golden Knights**

Soldiers interested in trying out for the elite parachute team are encouraged to submit applications immediately; deadline for submission is July 24. Tryouts begin Sept. 8 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

To be selected to the team, a Soldier must be on active duty status, have completed 100 free-fall parachute jumps and have a good military and civilian record. Those requesting a jump waiver should contact the operations section, officials said.

Soldiers submitting their packets for selection will attend a rigorous six-week assessment and selection program of training. Those who successfully complete the six-week training program will be knighted in a special ceremony as an official member of the Golden Knights.

For more information or applications, visit www.usarec.army. mil/hq/goldenknights.

New hours for Perry Point VA Urgent Care Clinic

Effective Aug. 1, the Urgent Care Clinic at the Perry Point VA Medical Center will be open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday (except for federal holidays). The hours of operation are being changed due to the decreasing demand for urgent outpatient care services during evening and weekend hours at the medical center.

All veterans who receive their care at the Perry Point VA Medical Center are reminded that they can receive medical advice or ask questions about their medications after normal business hours by calling the Telephone Care Line for the VA Maryland Health Care System at 1-800-865-2441.

Veterans can also schedule a same day appointment at the Perry Point VA Medical Center by calling the Telephone Care Line Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., 1-800-865-2441.

(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Shorts.)



Contract awarded for ARL's Vehicle Technology Directorate facility

Story by
NICOLE CAWTHORNE
APG BRAC Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded the construction contract for the U.S. Army Research Laboratory Vehicle Technology Directorate facility June 26. The contract was awarded to Walbridge Aldinger of Detroit, Mich., in the amount of \$14.7 million to build a Vehicle Technology Directorate facility behind the already existing Rodman Laboratory located in the Aberdeen Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground off of Deer Creek Loop Road.

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory was previously updated as part of Base Realignment and Closure 1995 with the completion of the Rodman Laboratory. The ARL-VTD will be relocating to APG

from NASA centers in Langley, Va., and Glenn, Ohio, as part of BRAC 2005.

"The ground breaking for a new vehicle research laboratory is an extremely good news story for ARL," said Dr. Mark Nixon, director of the ARL-VTD. "It represents the efforts of ARL, the Corps of Engineers and garrison employees and their diligent and exceptional teamwork during the design phase of this new facility."

Explaining the highlights of the new facility Nixon commented, "Laboratories to be included on the site will be a small engine testing chamber with altitude simulation, a universal drive systems rig, a low Reynolds-number wind-tunnel, and a high-cycle fatigue lab. The new facility will also house the Propulsion and Mechanics Divisions of

ARL's Vehicle Technology Directorate."

Nixon went on to note that the addition of this facility will help strengthen ARL's core mission.

"The BRAC decision has enabled VTD to consolidate its personnel and their associated laboratories, and has produced synergy with related materials, humanfactors and high-performance computing research that ARL also conducts at APG. The consolidation efforts have only begun to tap the potential this [VTD addition] will create for ARL," he said.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held for the facility in early September with construction to begin soon after. The VTD is scheduled for completion in June 2011.

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory

is an Army leader in the field of basic and applied research. According to ARL's official Web site, the mission of the organization is, "to provide innovative science, technology and analysis to enable full-spectrum operations...the Army relies on this ARL Team for scientific discoveries, technologic advances and analyses to provide Warfighters with capabilities to succeed on the battlefield."

Scientists and engineers consistently work to assist not only the Army of today, but also in providing solutions for the Army of the future.

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory was established in January of 1992, as part of BRAC 1991. The importance of the technology concerning the U.S. Army was easy to recognize with the start of the Desert Storm ground war in 1991. The United States won pivotal battles as a direct result of advanced technologies. One of the significant battles took place just three days into the war at what is known as the "73 Easting" line in southeast Iraq.

United States Soldiers were directed to advance on Iraqi forces in order to prevent their entrance into Kuwait. With Iraqi commanders well seasoned from the recent Iran-Iraq war, the Iraqi home territory advantage, and U.S. troops grossly outnumbered in terms of both militia and tanks, the outlook for American success on the battlefield was dim. The assumption proved to be of no consequence; in just under 30 minutes, Iraqi forces were obliterated and the day was an American victory. Remarkably, not one U.S. Soldier was killed during the battle.

Along with the courage of the troops and Army leadership, a significant factor to the victory was the advanced technology of the United States. The M-1 tanks used by Americans were unmatchable. The technological success of the battle was a major turning point in Army research and technology. Government officials found it necessary to ensure technological efficiency by mandating the consolidation of Army laboratories, thus creating ARL, which holds primary locations at APG and Adelphi, Md.

The ARL-VTD is a specific branch of ARL which specializes in the mobility-related and technological research of Army ground and air vehicles. Researchers conduct studies in propulsion, robotics, vehicle modeling and simulation and mechanics. The VTD ensures the strength and durability of the Army's vehicles, including the M1A1, demonstrated to be far superior to the tanks used by Iraqi soldiers in the "73 Easting" battle.

Re-enlistment

From front page

ble to receive all options as if nothing has changed - as long as they are redeploying prior to October thirty first."

Additional exemptions from the temporary policy include Soldiers in overmanned career fields. They may re-enlist for three or more years in order to meet the retainability requirements for moving into a new career field. Soldiers in the rank of staff sergeant and above, who have 10 or more years service, are required to re-enlist under the provisions of the indefinite re-enlistment program. Additionally, Soldiers participating in the bonus extension and retraining program, known as BEAR, can re-enlist in accordance with their program agreement.

The temporary policy has the effect of stopping re-enlistment bonuses for some - as a requirement for those bonuses is a three-year or more re-enlistment. Soldiers hoping to re-enlist and receive such a bonus, if they meet the requirements to receive a re-enlistment bonus, will have to wait until the new fiscal year begins and re-enlist then.

Some Soldiers who want to re-enlist, however, will be forced to re-enlist during the last quarter of fiscal year 2009, because their re-enlistment window though a full two years long - will end during that period. Those Soldiers will have to re-enlist for two years, and then re-enlist again inside the new fiscal year if they want to stay in longer.

"But most of the Soldiers who have waited to the last minute have re-enlisted prior to this message going out," Drummond said, "so it only affects those who have been on the wire." Drummond said even those Soldiers will still be able to eventually get a re-enlistment bonus.

"If you've done two years and you reenlist for six years, you are actually in a sense adding four more years," Drummond said. "But that's all you'll get a bonus for is four more years, not six."

AAFES NEWS

Keeping those leftover meals safe to

KEVIN L. ROBINSON

Commissary customers are saving more money by cooking their own meals at home and munching on the leftovers for days after that initial meal. But there are limits to a good thing.

As part of its Food Safety Awareness campaign, the Defense Commissary Agency is advising customers to monitor how long they keep food in their refrigerators to ensure the items are safe to eat.

'Food Safety at home revolves around keeping storage areas such as the refrigerator clean and using, freezing or disposing of leftover foods that have been held chilled for two to three days," said Col. David R. Schuckenbrock, DeCA's director of Health and Safety. "Most items don't hold up well and begin to spoil if held longer chilled. Without good rotation practices, finding a snack in the refrigerator becomes an adventure with unintended health risks.'

Checking those leftovers is part of the "Be Food Safe" campaign developed by the Partnership for Food Safety Education to promote proper food handling techniques at home - clean cooking areas, separate foods that may cross contaminate, cook food thoroughly and chill leftover food at the right temperature.

With more food being tucked into refrigerators after meals, DeCA's food safety officials want commissary customers to remember the following tips on storing and heating leftovers:

- · Wash hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds before and after handling food.
- Refrigerate cooked leftovers promptly – within two hours. Use an appliance thermometer to ensure the refrigerator is at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below.
- Divide leftovers into smaller portions and store in shallow containers in the refrigerator.
- Reheat cooked leftovers to 165 degrees Fahrenheit as measured with a food thermometer.
- When microwaving leftovers, make sure there are no cold spots in the food (where bacteria can survive). Cover food, stir and rotate for even cooking. If the microwave has no turntable, rotate the dish by hand once or twice during cooking.

"Our customers can count on the commissary to be a safe food source, but we cannot safeguard their food once it leaves the store," said DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. "By following these guidelines

For more information on Be Food Safe, go to www.befoodsafe.org/.

• Small bagel or 1/2 large bagel with

Several of the snacks listed are great,

too, because they don't need to be refrig-

erated. You can find many of them at

your local commissary and store them

right in your home, office, barracks or

taining whole grain carbohydrates, lean

protein and small amounts of healthy fats,

four hours without eating something.

Although it's ideal to eat a snack con-

Low-fat yogurt

low-fat cream cheese

Granola

Trail mix

• Granola bar

Beef jerky

even your car.

15 snacks to help keep your **Commentary:** hunger at bay

CHRIS HALAGARDA U.S. Navy

Snacks have been a part of our lives since childhood. They were built into our schedules in preschool and elementary school and encouraged by moms, teachers and coaches in high school. So, where did the art of snacking go? Have they been identified as the first thing that should be eliminated for weight loss or has marketing of unhealthy chips and dips closed our eyes to the possibility of a snack being healthy?

Worse yet, many Americans today not only skip snacks, many skip entire meals, making one or two large meals

time and time again that individuals who

Deployed or TDY

skip meals follow up by eating more calories at their next meal than they need for the whole day. These "meal-skipping" individuals also tend to make poor food choices when they do find the time to eat. They then make spontaneous fastfood stops because they're so hungry they don't care what they eat. They'll eat anything to stave off the hunger.

With daily schedules too busy to find time for sit-down meals, it's that much more important to find time for a healthy snack. Many of us are busy beyond our wildest dreams (or nightmares) with 10hour workdays, long commutes, chauffeuring kids to practices, yardwork and

There's no easy answer to alleviate these stresses, but ultimately something has to give and you don't want it to be your health. Snacking is a great way to maximize your nutrition without having to spend time cooking.

Here are some simple snacks to keep you moving without all the hunger:

- Natural peanut butter on wholewheat bread or crackers
- Two ounces of nuts or seeds (small handful)
- Piece of fruit
- Natural turkey cold cuts with low-
- Hummus with vegetables, pita bread or whole-wheat pretzels
- Whole-wheat crackers with low-fat

patrons have until 2010 to redeem CertifiChecks

- Two cups of popcorn
- Cup of low-fat milk

for handling refrigerated leftover food, our customers can protect themselves from the bacteria that can make them sick." For more information on food safety, go to the DeCA Web site at www.commissaries.com and click on the Food

Safety section to access links to various consumer safety sites. The DeCA Web site is also a good source to find out about any recalls affecting products sold in commissaries.

exercise. When is there time to cook a it's not always possible. The bottom line is the only nourishment for the day. Cup of whole-grain cereal in a baggie to eat a few hundred calories of something Unfortunately, research has shown healthy and don't go more than three to

KÉVÍN L. ROBINSON

Authorized patrons who were deployed or away on temporary duty from March 6 through July 31, 2009, will have more time to redeem their commissary CertifiCheck gift certificates, the Defense Commissary Agency announced. These customers now have until July 31, 2010, to redeem gift certificates in a military commissary.

"Extending the redemption deadline for our troops downrange is only fair," said DeCA Director and CEO obligation to support our customers in extraordinary circumstances and this situation definitely qualifies."

The 2010 date applies only to individuals who qualify for the deployment and TDY extension. Units, organizations and other customers who did not deploy or travel on official duty during the period noted must still redeem their commissary gift certificates by July 31, 2009.

To take advantage of the extension, customers who were deployed or on temporary duty for the entire period from March 6 to July 31, 2009, must complete a form and have it signed by a supervifrom March 6 through July 31, 2009. The necessary form can be downloaded from the DeCA Web site by accessing the following link: www.commissaries.com/CertificheckForm.pdf. It also will be available in store customer service areas and cash offices. The customer must present the signed form along with the gift certificate to a cashier at the point of purchase.

Shortly after CertifiChecks Inc. ceased operations Feb. 26, DeCA announced that its customers could continue using their commissary gift checks in stores until July 31. Since Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. "We have an sor, certifying that the duty took place then, certificates with a face value of

almost \$590,000 have been accepted by DeCA commissaries through June 13. The Dayton, Ohio-based company formally filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in April.

Since 2002, more than \$20 million in gift certificates have been purchased for authorized commissary customers, including more than \$3.9 million in fiscal year 2008.

Show off your exchange for a shot at \$50

AAFES

With approximately 3,100 stores in all 50 states and more than 30 countries, the range, scope and look of Army & Air Force Exchange Service facilities can vary greatly from location to location. Whether it's a huge mall in Grafenwoehr or a Mobile Field Exchange in Iraq, AAFES wants to see and hear what sets your exchange apart from the rest.

The "Where in the World is your Exchange" photo contest is an opportunity for military shoppers to submit photos of their favorite BX/PX along with a 50 word or less description or story of the image.

Beginning July 1, the contest will award a \$50 gift card to two winners each week for the month of July.

"We're looking forward to receiving photos from a variety of different exchanges and seeing and hearing what

makes each one special," said Strategic Marketing Manager Eric Alberts. "In addition to the gift card, these winners may also see their photos used in future AAFES military outreach calendars or

holiday cards." To enter, photographs and descriptions can be sent to PatriotFamily@ aafes.com with the title "Where in the World is your Exchange" in the subject line. Entrants must include their name, address, daytime phone number, rank or occupation plus photo information at the top left hand side of the e-mail. Only one photo may be submitted per household.

Complete contest details are available at www.aafes.com .

Contest Photo Format Restrictions: Images submitted electronically must be .jpeg or .tiff file format only, no larger than 1 MB. Shoppers may only submit original photographs of which they are the sole owner of any copyright or other property or privacy rights.

Visit **APG News online at** www.apgnews.apg.army.mil ECBC

Community and APG: Partners in Education

ECBC employee engineers interesting way to promote STEM careers to students

TRACY NEWMAN AND JUSTINE SMITH

While planning his presentation for students enrolled in the geospatial intelligence class given as part of the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Program at Joppatowne High School, Chris Gaughan had one goal — keep it entertaining.

Continuing the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center tradition of providing educational outreach to Harford County schools, Gaughan discussed how he built a successful career as an electrical engineer

"[My goal was] to provide an entertaining story about how an electrical engineer ended up working at a place called the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, what it took to get there and where you can go if interested," Gaughan told the students studying the program's Communications and Information Technology strand.

The HSEP-JHS program is the nation's first to provide high school students with career skills and technological expertise in the areas of information and communication technology; law enforcement and criminal justice; and homeland security sciences. Gaughan and Chris Carr, an information technology consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton, talked about their respective employment paths during the student's career exploration unit June 5.

At the conclusion of his presentation, it appeared as though Gaughan had achieved his goal.

"He was a cool speaker and basically connected with us," said Josh Clark, an 11th-grade student at HSEP-JHS.

Gaughan's message and the story of how the electrical engineer found himself successfully working side-by-side among researchers at ECBC wasn't lost on the educators in the room

"He was full of energy. He kept the students fully engaged and thinking for a long time,' said Jackie Smith, an information technology and environmental teacher. "The students truly related with him."



Photo by MARY DOAK, ECBC

Chris Gaughan discusses his career as an electrical engineer within ECBC's Research and Technology Directorate with students at the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Program at Joppatowne High School during a career exploration event held June 5.

APG Education Center announcements

Functional Academic Skills Training

Soldiers who need to raise their GT score should sign up for the next FAST class scheduled for 8 a.m. to noon, Aug. 10 through 28, Monday thru Friday, in building 4305, room 219. To enroll, Soldiers are required to take a pre-screening test and will need to make an appointment. For assistance, contact the Education Center. 410-306-2042/2045.

Army Vocational Technical **Program**

The Army Vocational Technical program provides Soldiers an opportunity to earn a certificate or diploma. This short term pilot program is intended to help Soldiers train in high-demand career fields as well as help to find employment after transitioning out of the Army. This program is paid out of separate funding from TA and is not classified as Tuition Assistance. There is no recoupment for AVOCTEC and Soldiers can ETS without penalty wherever they may be within the course. Enrollment dates must be prior to Sept. 30, and there are no plans to extend the AVOCTEC program in

fiscal year 2010. For more information, contact the Education Center, 410-306-2042/2037.

Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program

The Department of Defense has implemented Public Law 110-417 authorizing the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program to provide resources and assistance to spouses of active duty services members, Guard and Reserve with a spouse on orders for one year, in support of their pursuit of a successful, long-term portable career.

This centralized, virtual program, accessed through Military OneSource, will provide counseling and funding. up to \$6,000, to assist with licensure, certification or education opportunities leading to portable employment opportunities. Spouses interested should call the Military OneSource Center, 1-800-342-9647, and speak with a career and education consultant. The DoD funded program specifics are available for review at www. militaryonesource.com. For more information, contact the APG Education Center, 410-306-2042.

APG School Liaison

Obtaining grants for education

Anyone in the National Guard or Reserve (clients, Family, friends, or neighbors) either deployed overseas or severely injured, and has children aged 3 years through 12th grade, is eligible to apply at www.ourmilitarykids.org for a grant of up to \$500 or more for up to six months of future instruction, lessons tutoring, or activities.

To see a list of eligible activities, visit www.ourmilitarykids.org/howto-apply/eligible-program-activities. php.

For a list of frequently asked questions, visit www.ourmilitarykids.org/ how-to-apply/faqs.php.

Apply at www.ourmilitarykids. org/how-to-apply/apply-now.php.

Camp Invention® returns to Forest Hill

The Camp Invention® Program to a problem. features a mix of popular curriculum and an imaginative approach to ing first through sixth grade, the Camp

The program returns to Forest Hill Elementary School, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., July 20 through 24. Based on the concept that learning should be fun, the program provides children with opportunities to experience the joy of playing, creating and inventing in ways that augment their traditional education and shows them that there's always more than one solution

Custom designed for children enter-Invention® program presents a science-based curriculum that has been a proven success nationwide.

Cost to attend Camp Invention is \$225 per child, cost to register online

For more information, about Camp Invention program or to register, visit https://register.campinvention.org/ eforumnihf/webpages/MainPage. **aspx** or call 800-968-4332.

For more information on any APG school related topic, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail eileen.campbell@us.army.mil.

Pentagon Channel for **July/August 2009 CHANNEL®**

The Pentagon Channel will feature the following programs on WAPG-TV, Channel 21, during the month of March. These programs are subject to change each week and will be updated accordingly.

MONDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m. Down Range, 10:30 a.m. The Grill Sergeants, 12 p.m. Battleground, 3 p.m. Around the Services, 7:30 p.m. Recon, 8 p.m. Battleground, 11 p.m.

TUESDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m. Down Range, 10:30 a.m. Around the Services, 12:30pm Army Newswatch, 4 p.m. FNG (For New Guys), 6:30 p.m. Recon, 8 p.m. Battleground, 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m. Tour of Duty, 10 a.m. Down Range, 1 p.m. The Grill Sergeants, 2 p.m. Recon, 4:30 p.m. Around the Services, 7:30 p.m. The Grill Sergeants, 10 p.m. Battleground, 11 p.m.

THURSDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m. Army Newswatch, 10 a.m. Down Range, 1 p.m. Around the Services, 7:30 p.m. Recon, 8 p.m. Battleground, 11 p.m.

FRIDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m. Down Range, 10:30 a.m. The Grill Sergeants, 12 p.m. Exchange on Air, 2 p.m. Down Range, 6:30 p.m. The Grill Sergeants, 8:30 p.m. Battleground, 11 p.m.

SATURDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m. Army Newswatch, 9 a.m. FNG (For New Guys), 11 a.m. Around the Services, 1 p.m. Down Range, 5 p.m. The Grill Sergeants, 6:30 p.m. FNG (For New Guys), 8:30 p.m. Recon, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m. Battleground, 7 a.m. Around the Services, 10 a.m. The Grill Sergeants, 12:30 p.m. Recon, 4 p.m. Army Newswatch, 6:30 p.m. FNG (For New Guys), 9:30 p.m.

 Army Newswatch: Bi-weekly report on the men and women of the Army.

This Week in the Pentagon, 10 p.m.

- Battleground: Features historic films from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.
- Fit for Duty: Takes viewers through a high-energy 30-minute workout led by service members.
- Freedom Journal Iraq: Focuses on military missions, operations and U.S. military forces in Iraq.
- RECON: Provides an in-depth look on a variety of topics from real world operations, missions, military evenets/history and other subjects highlighting the accomplish-

ments of U.S. military men and women.

- Freedom Watch Afghanistan: Presents the latest from Operation Enduring Freedom in a daily newscast showing the activities of American troops in country.
- The Grill Sergeants: Serving up meals military style! A Pentagon Channel original program.
- Around the Services: Features military news from top defense officials and the military services from around the world.
- This week in the Pentagon: An update on news coming out of the Pentagon.
- America's Army The Strength of the Nation: This video highlights why Soldiers, their Families and Army civilians are indeed the strength of the nation.
- · Faces of Strength: Unforgettable close-up portraits of the "everyday" heroes of the Army Family, who answered their country's call with selfless service and unflinching strength.

Astronomy is much more than just a Astronomy is much more than just a stronomy is much more than just a stro

Story by MIKE CAST

When he gazes at the nighttime sky through one of several telescopes he owns, Tom DeMott sees a universe full of awesome spectacles and natural phenomena. DeMott, a visual information specialist for the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, has been an avid amateur astronomer for many years. What began as a hobby when he explored the heavens with his father as a child has grown into much more than just a hobby since then.

DeMott said he and his father would view periodic comet visitations and meteor showers as they appeared in the night sky. What he saw sparked his imagination and aroused his curiosity, and astronomy became a lifetime interest.

On occasion he has been a teacher as well as an observer, helping others to understand astronomical phenomena during "star parties" he led as a member of the Delaware Astronomical Society.

DeMott's dedication to the science of astronomy earned him recognition in 1991 when the Delaware Astronomical Society selected him as the organization's "Astronomer of the Year." He was the organization's sky-show chairperson for seven years, which he believes earned him the honor. In that capacity, he prepared talks and helped to organize evening star-gazing events for educational purposes. While people peered into the night sky, he explained which planets were visible and where they were, and pointed out the major constellations. As a technical associate of the Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory near Wilmington, Del., he worked with a team of members to plot the courses of periodic comets. He made necessary calculations with the aid of an ephemeris, which in astronomy is a table of values that gives the positions of astronomical objects in the sky at a given time or times.

"That, along with declination and right ascension – celestial map coordinates – provides the tracks of known periodic comets," he explained. "There are usually a number of technical-associate and amateur-astronomer volunteers involved in special interest groups at MCAO. Comet Astrometry is only one aspect of the research programs in progress at the observatory."

In addition to creating slide presentations and giving outdoor observation sessions, DeMott has been a classroom speaker and has told stories about star names, myths and legends at many Girl/Boy Scout camps, church organizations and elementary and secondary school programs.

"People with an interest in astronomy don't need to have sophisticated telescopes and gadgetry to pursue it. Amateur star gazers can see many objects in the night sky with a pair of good binoculars." DeMott said

good binoculars," DeMott said.

"Typically, what you want to strive for is the brightest image you can get with a magnification that doesn't make the image too fuzzy and shake all over the place," he explained. "Mounting any size binoculars on a tripod is an advisable solution to these problems. If you can't afford a tripod, the maximum balance is "7x50s" for hand-held binoculars. With those, you can explore the star clusters in the Milky Way, see the phases of Venus, the red color of Mars, the rings of Saturn, and sometimes the belts around Jupiter.

"The Orion Nebula is a large, gorgeous smudge in binoculars, as is the Andromeda Galaxy. All naked-eye comets, like the recent comets McNaught and Hale-Bopp, are absolutely brilliant in binoculars," he continued.

"For tripod-mounted binoculars, a pair of "11x70s" will show you all of those things, but brighter. These binoculars are very expensive, about three hundred dollars, and really can't be used for anything but looking at the sky. None of the really faint deep-sky objects, like the Crab Nebula, are visible with binoculars.

"Amateur astronomers have contributed to the science in many ways,' DeMott said. "Some have even made significant discoveries. Armed with a twelve-inch telescope, a computer and a NASA e-mail alert, Berto Monard of South Africa became the first amateur astronomer to discover an afterglow of a gamma-ray burst, the most powerful explosion known in the universe. Hanny van Arkel, a teacher in the Netherlands, was poring over photos of galaxies on the Internet in August 2007 when she stumbled across a strange object in the night sky – a bright, gaseous mass with a gaping hole in its middle.

Her startling find – a mysterious and unique object some observers are calling



Photo by MIKE CAST

Tom DeMott has been an avid astronomer for many years, having developed an interest in the subject when his father observed the night sky with him.

a 'cosmic ghost' – caught the attention of the people who run the Hubble Space Telescope."

It is an astronomical convention to rate the brightness of a star's light by magnitude. A small magnitude number means a star is bright, whereas stars with higher magnitude numbers are dimmer. Some stars that are incredibly distant from Earth only reveal themselves because they are exceptionally bright. DeMott said the most amazing aspect of astronomy is the window it gives the observer on objects at huge distances from Earth and events that occurred in the distant past, long before humans existed.

past, long before humans existed.

"When I looked at a faint bluish object known as Quasar 3C 273 in the constellation Virgo with my eight-inch telescope, I viewed light that left that object some 2.6 billion light-years ago," DeMott said. "At such a distance, objects have their light dimmed by 38.9 magnitudes. In order for us to even see 3C 273 means that it must be incredibly bright. Latest estimates point to 3C 273 being as bright as two trillion of our suns. That would make it as bright as one hundred times the combined light of all the stars in our Milky Way Galaxy."

Not content to study the night sky with binoculars or simple department store telescopes, DeMott has acquired some sophisticated hardware. He owns four reflecting telescopes and two refractor models. Reflector telescopes are so named because they reflect light with a parabolic mirror, which has a curved shape, like a saucer. The light is reflected back up to a secondary mirror that bounces it out of the tube to the eyepiece, where the user looks. In refractor telescopes, light travels through a big lens at the end of the tube to a small lens or eyepiece on the other end. Both types of telescopes have strengths and weaknesses, DeMott observed.

"If your primary goal is to look at the moon, the planets and terrestrial objects, a small refractor works well," he explained. "But larger refracting telescopes have size and cost factors. It is very expensive to make large lenses, whereas it is much more cost effective to make very large mirrors for reflecting telescopes. So, if you want to get a lot of light-gathering power in the form of a bigger telescope to view deep-space objects, then a reflector is the best choice."

Even with the best equipment, it is sometimes difficult to observe astronomical bodies

"Light pollution, especially around densely populated urban centers, has been a big problem for astronomers," DeMott said.

"Most of the light you see at night is wasted light shining up into the sky instead of where it belongs – down on the ground," he explained. "Remember, by controlling light pollution we save money, lots of money. We can do better, but it will take a commitment by many people to make a difference so that nearly everyone has a better view of the universe.



Photoby TOM DEMOTT

This photograph of Comet Hale-Bopp in the constellation Andromeda was taken by Tom DeMott on March 27, 1997, about 9 p.m. EST in Chester County, Pa., from the intersection of Little Elk Creek and Frog Hollow Roads, as the comet appeared over the nearby town of Oxford. The camera used was a single lens reflex, 35mm Minolta with a 55mm standard lens. The film was 1000 Kodak Gold, counted 15-20 second exposure with f-stop set at 2.8.

"In a nutshell, there are three basic problems with outdoor night lighting," he continued. "A majority of outdoor lights are simply too bright. A majority of outdoor lights are not properly shielded, and thus cause unwanted and unsafe and expensive light trespass and glare. There are simply too many unnecessary outdoor lights out there – a great many paid for by you, the taxpayer."

Astronomers around the world are celebrating 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy. This year was chosen because it is the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of a telescope to study the skies. It is also the 400th anniversary of the publication of the treatise Astronomia Nova (New Astronomy) by Johannes Kepler, a German mathematician and astronomer who figured out that planets revolve around the sun in elliptical rather than circular orbits. A variety of public events are taking place, and more information about those occurring in the United States is available at http:// astronomy2009.us.

Locally, the Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory in Greenville, Dela., is hosting "Public Nights" which will continue year round. In addition to learning about many aspects of the heavens, participants will have a chance to visit and view the observatory's all-digital full-dome planetarium. A schedule is available at http://mountcuba.org.

Star parties will be held on the grounds of the observatory and at other locations. Participants can bring their own telescopes or observe the night sky through other people's equipment. Telescopes in use may include a 12.5-inch Newtonian reflector, 17-inch Coulter Odyssey 2 or a 6-inch Orion SkyQuest XT6 Dobsonian if it is not on loan. Star parties are always contingent on the weather. For more information, call the MCAO at 302-654-6407. Interested parties can also obtain more information at these Web sites: www.harfordastro.org, www.physics. udel.edu/mcao, www.skyandtelescope. com/ and www.astronomy.com/asy/ default.aspx.

Story and photos by YVONNE JOHNSON

APG News

Elements tasked with protecting the property and lives of Aberdeen Proving Ground residents, employees and guests take their mission seriously and none are more serious than the members of the Directorate of Emergency Services' Special Reaction Team.

With more than 12,000 people on the installation during the day, SRT personnel realize the population is comparable to a small city and that they must be prepared and ready for anything.

Like Soldiers, the team accomplishes this through training, and recently they conducted an exercise in the Edgewood Area's Skipper's Point housing area focused on that goal.

Led by Lt. Joel Holdford, SRT commander, the team staged a hostage situation for SRT students in the abandoned areas of the subdivision. The SRT was holding their annual selection course which allows prospective candidates a chance to be tested mentally and physically in the instruction of Special Weapons and Tactics, or SWAT. After successful completion of the 10-day, 120-hour course candidates may be selected, based upon performance, to be a full time member of the SRT.

Candidates competing for SRT positions and students attending the course from other jurisdictions were tasked with responding to a domestic disturbance in a residence that transitioned into a barricaded hostage situation. Special Reaction Team cadre and police officers, who were also being evaluated, conducted the negotiation, communication and tactical operations phases of the exercise.

Leading the operation was Capt. Nick Stamos, acting chief of the DES Police Services Division and Officer Paul Chin, SRT Team leader who stood in as tactical command.

The scene had the look of a movie set as negotiation and communication teams set up in a nearby building while the SRT candidates practiced breach operations in another abandoned building.

The Crisis Negotiation Team was able to deploy a device that allows them to directly communicate with the hostage taker. At the command post, located in the laundry room of a home two houses away, Stamos was able to monitor the negotiator's progress utilizing a tactical command post communications "briefcase." The "briefcase" allows him to communicate simultaneously with the tactical teams, negotiators and team chiefs.

Further inside the house, negotiators were set up in the kitchen area. Special Agent Micah Rush, the primary negotiator, and Detective Michael Dawson, serving as coach, formed a two-person team authorized to engage the hostage taker in conversation.

"We work as a team," Dawson said. "The coach is there to give the negotiator ideas and to step in if needed."

"All it is, is an interview over the phone," Rush added. "You have to be able to read the voice, and sometimes the coach will hear something you don't."

Most hostage situations fall into two categories: spontaneous and planned, with planned being the most dangerous as suspects are typically goal-oriented, focused and rational, Dawson said.

"Emotionally driven situations usually are not planned, but in either case, communication is key," he added.

"All three teams train with state of the art equipment which is great for the APG community. If they're talking to you, then they're not hurting any-



Assault team members practice for a breach attempt they will be tested on later in the day during a recent training exercise in the Edgewood Area for candidates of the Directorate of Emergency Services' Special Reaction Team.



Tactical Officer Chin of APG SRT stands in as the tactical commander utilizing the communication brief case to talk to the incident commander during the exercise. Communication plays a vital role in these types of incidents.



Officer May of the APG Police holds coverage on a stairwell while the rest of the team clears the main floor. The helmet face shields worn by the officers provide protection from the marking pellets used during training.

one," Dawson said.

Holdford said it was essential that all three elements, negotiators, command team and SRT personnel, are able to communicate at the same time.

"The negotiator's job is to focus on the hostage taker," he said. "His sole purpose is to resolve the situation peacefully.

"In the worst case scenario, if we have to make an entry as a last resort, we want to be able to do it well. We believe the people living here deserve to be protected. Their Soldiers are risking their lives everyday," Holdford added.

After the CNT successfully negotiated the release of the hostage, the situation called for a breach of the residence by SRT members, who were in position behind the house. All wore tactical bullet-proof vests and Kevlar helmets. The SRT and role players were using simunitions, which is a realistic training aid similar to paint ball that is fired from their service weapons. The lead team member protected the team with a ballistic shield and all were armed with various weapons. They also carried diversionary devices



Members of the APG, Crisis Negotiation Team conduct negotiations. Special Agent Rush of the resident CID office and Detective Dawson APG Police Investigative Services Division, form the CNT.



Officers Wight and Walters pull coverage for the assault element while attempting a breach of the target quarters.

such as smoke and flash bang grenades.

Once in position, the team used a breaching ram to break open the door and then swarmed the residence, and after much smoke and gunfire, emerged with the hostage taker in custody. When the exercise ended, Holdford led an after-action review with all participants, discussing with them what went right and what went wrong.

"The bottom line is, expect the unexpected," Holdford said.

The SRT School is held at the former National Guard training

site near Lauderick Creek. Can-

didates live on-site and put in 12- to 14-hour days.

Cadre personnel also attend state and nationwide training with elements from Baltimore and Harford counties. Attendees to the school are required to obtain state and federal certifications.

The next step for a selected SRT candidate is advanced firearms training and an endless amount of advanced tactical training.

"Our people are very select and take pride in protecting those who protect America," Holdford said.



New interactive water safety tool available

U. S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

To reduce the number of incidences of water related deaths and injuries to Soldiers, Family members and civilians, the U. S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center has launched an interactive, Web-based, multimedia 'Water Safety' tool available on the USACR/Safety Center home page at https://safety.army.mil/WaterSafety.

The new tool, which requires users to have Adobe Flash Player 9 installed on their computers, is designed to provide water safety-related content in an appealing and engaging format.

"In 2007, the Army lost fifteen Soldiers in

water-related accidents," said Dr. Patricia LeDuc, USACR/Safety Center Human Factors Task Force director. "Although that number went down last year, we never want to see it that high again, and a tool like 'Water Safety' is going to help us keep complacency low and safe water fun high."

Water safety is an interactive community that puts challenging

and fun online activities, and

The new 'Water Safety' tool features safety-related content presented to the user through links, videos and entertaining and informative safety challenges. The interactive challenges will display safety messages (tips, statistics and trivia) to promote water safety awareness, knowledge and a more water safety-conscious lifestyle.

Four water safety challenges are available: swimming, personal watercraft, life ring toss and beach hazards.

The swimming challenge promotes awareness and development of "safe swimming behaviors." Users control a swimmer trying to swim across a lake to a dock and back. On the way, the swimmer will need to avoid obstacles and conserve energy. Users are presented safety messages for grabbing life rings and collect bonus points or get additional energy for acknowledging the safety message.

The personal watercraft challenge was designed to promote "safe personal watercraft operation behaviors." During this challenge, the user will control a personal watercraft while trying to navigate the lake to a dock. Successful safe docking will accumulate points for the user. Before being allowed to operate the personal watercraft, safety-related information needs to be reviewed and checked off.

The life ring toss challenge is designed to promote general water safety awareness. The user will have to be on the watch for struggling swimmers and is provided with safety-related information throughout different difficulty levels. The environment changes with an increased number of swimmers and the addition of wind and interference objects.

The beach hazard challenge is designed to promote beach safety awareness. This challenge includes information on sunscreen, heat related injuries and other injuries (cuts and sunburns) common at the beach. During challenge play, the user will control a walker trying to navigate to a destination on the beach while avoiding obstacles on the beach. Bonus points can be obtained by finding items to include sunscreen, sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat.

LeDuc said 'Water Safety' is just one of many exciting programs the USACR/Safety Center team is working on that will help better engage the total Army Family, from the computer novice to the technology wizard.

"Programs like 'Water Safety' allow us to use exciting visual media to make our safety messages fun, interesting and active for all members of our Army Family," she said. "We are very excited to add this great new program to our inventory."

Commentary: Be water wise

CARLLA JONES

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Did you know that drowning can happen in just a few seconds? On average, it takes only 20 seconds for a child and 60 seconds for an adult to drown.

Drowning is often a silent event, especially for children; those 5 years and under don't understand the danger of falling into water and don't usually splash, cry or call out for help.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2005 an average of 10 deaths per day occurred due to drowning. More than one in four drowning victims were children aged 14 and younger. For those who only "nearly drown," the end result is often tragic. Near-drowning may result in memory lapses, learning disabilities or severe brain damage.

As the weather gets warmer, many Soldiers and their Families will seek recreation in or around water. While having fun may be the top priority, it is important to take steps like these to prevent drowning and near drowning:

- Designate a responsible adult "water watcher" to supervise all children swimming or playing in or around water. This adult should not be distracted by anything else; that means no chatting with other people or book reading, no cell phone texting or grilling.
- Avoid drinking alcohol before or during swimming, boating or water skiing. Be especially careful not to drink alcohol while supervising children.
- For home pools, install a four-sided, isolation pool fence that completely

separates the house from the pool area. The fence should be non-climbable and at least 4 feet tall. Use self-closing, self-latching gates that open outward and have latches above the reach of children. Place items that can be used for climbing (like tables and chairs) away from fences.

- Remove all floats and other toys from the pool immediately after use. These toys can tempt children to enter the pool area or lean over the pool and potentially fall in.
- Know the local weather conditions and forecast before swimming or boating. Bad weather can make swimming and boating very dangerous.
- Use only U.S. Coast Guardapproved life jackets when boating. Always use life jackets, regardless of the distance to be travelled, the size of the boat or the swimming ability of the boaters. Do not use air-filled or foam toys (like "water wings") in place of life jackets.
- Never swim alone, even if you are an excellent swimmer.

You should also plan ahead for water emergencies. Teach everyone how to use safety equipment and how to call 9-1-1. Finally, learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Your CPR skills could make a difference in someone's life in the time it might take for paramedics to arrive.

Summertime means fun in and around the water. But be water wise and prevent drowning and other water injuries.

For more information about water safety, visit these Web sites:

- The CDC, www.cdc.gov/SafeChild/ Drowning/default.htm.
- SafeKidsU.S.A., www.usa.safekids. org, and search on "drowning."



Panic on the highway!

Installation Safety Office

"Adventures in driving decision making" is brought to everyone by the Installation Safety Office.

Test your driving expertise in the following situation and then from the options provided, select the best answer. The answers are printed upside down.

Situation #43

You're driving 25 mph in a residential district. There are cars parked along the curb and trees on your right. You're following an ice cream truck about 25 yards ahead of you. The truck makes a quick stop and a youngster runs out from the right side of the roadway. What should you do?

A. Honk and hard brake to stop.

B. Medium brake to slow and turn into cars on curb on right if necessary.

feet to stop.

ANSWER B. "Medium brake to slow and turn into cars at curb on right if necessary" is not necessary. It's not the thing to do. You have room to stop. You're going 25 mph and the ice cream truck is no less than 75 feet ahead. You need 61

ANSWER A. "Honk and hard brake to stop" is the thing to do. You have room to stop. You're going 25 mph and the ice cream truck is no less than 75 feet ahead. You need at least 61 feet to stop. You have enough room to spare.

Health Notes

Putting the brakes on headaches

Story by DR. KELLY L. FORYS

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Aching, pulsing, throbbing, stabbing ... Headaches can really be a pain!

Headaches are extreme-

Headaches are extremely common. They can range from being a minor nuisance to a debilitating pain. One in 20 people experience a headache on any given day. Even though headaches are common, they can sometimes be a sign that something is wrong.

There are many different types of headaches, and they occur for a variety of reasons. It is important to identify the type of headache to get the proper treatment.

Most common types of recurrent headaches Tension headaches

These headaches often produce mild to moderate pain over the entire head, with pain concentrating at the back of the neck or base of the skull. Tension headaches can seem to occur without an identifiable cause, but they frequently happen during times of stress and tension. Treatment for this type of headache often includes

over-the-counter pain relievers; however, a doctor can determine if a more powerful remedy is required.

Migraine headaches

In addition to pain in the head, migraine headaches are often accompanied by nausea, sensitivity to light and sound, and numbness and/or tingling. These headaches are more complex and most always require a physician's assistance.

Sinus/allergy headaches

Allergy and sinus headaches often co-occur with an infection in the sinuses, a fever, and pain or throbbing behind the eyes and at the temples. Over-the-counter medications can help in some cases. If the headache is the result of an infection, then a physician would need to assess the condition.

Headaches can occur during the adjustment to a new environment, such as when deployed or returning from a deployment. The change in air temperature, humidity and stress can produce headaches. Headaches can also occur after staring at the computer screen for long periods of time or from holding posture in an unusual way. Headaches happen more frequently

during times of stress when muscles become tense and breathing is rapid and shallow. Sudden onset headaches may occur for reasons such as thirst, hunger or caffeine withdrawal, or can result as a side effect from taking prescription medications.

Prevention is the best medicine.

Preventing headaches

- Stay well-hydrated.
- Eat meals at regular intervals to maintain steady blood sugar.
- Get adequate rest.
- Take breaks throughout the day to relax the body.
- Take a few deep breaths when feeling tense and stressed.

 Because there are so many

types of headaches, identifying which type headache is essential to getting the proper treatment. Seek the advice of a physician to help put the brakes on headache pain.

Leave Donations

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Carolyn Russell, 410-278-5327, fax 410-278-9176, or e-mail carolyn.russell2@us.army.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor) Jeanie Bowman Georgia Braun Michelle Brooks Alberta Brown Kimberly Carns Randy Carroll Lorrie Chieffo Joyce Clark John Daigle
Bonnie Day
Meg Downey
Wayne Erb
Rita Fowler
Holly Geppi
Marilyn Grebe
Erin Griffin
Linda Hindman
Beverly King (caring for husband)

Kari Jackson Sinclair Joe Janet Kipp Ellyn Kocher Shantiea Mack Joy Meadows Frantz Midy Karen Milton

Deborah Moore

Richard Morris

Marie D. Nowak

Mary Pettiway
Gloria Scott
Christina Shapiro
Ron Spencer
Willie Stevenson
Lavonne Telsee
Gale Thompson
Darlene Treston
Jamie Turner
Barbara Zenker

Cindy Orwig



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Teens: Got money?

A free financial class, which will teach teens age 11 to 15 and 16 to 18 how to earn and save money, will be held on Mondays starting Aug. 17 for four weeks at the Child, Youth and School Services Conference Room, building 2752, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. with snacks provided.

This class is part of a new Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program called The Edge which is designed to highlight opportunities for children and youth, in grades 1 through 12, to Experience, Develop, Grow and Excel in FMWR partner facilities.

To attend, sign-up at the CYSS Central Registration, building 2752.

For more information, contact Chuck Rose, 410-278-1399 or chuck.rose1@ us.army.mil. Free transportation to and from the Aberdeen Youth Center will be provided.

Adult and child golf teams at Exton and Ruggles

Exton

A 9-hole Scramble will take place with a 5 p.m. start, July 30, for an adult and one child, age 7 through 17. Entry fee costs \$30 and includes range balls, cart, hot dog, potato chips, soda and prizes.

Register in the Pro Shop at Exton or call 410-436-2213.

For more information, e-mail reben.ferguson@us.army.mil.

Ruggles

A 9-hole Scramble will take place with a 5 p.m. start, July 16, for an adult and one child, age 7 through 17. Entry fee costs \$30 and includes range balls, cart, hot dog, potato chips, soda and prizes. Register in the Pro Shop at Ruggles or call 410-278-4794.

For more information, e-mail david. correll@us.army.mil.

Hired!, a new Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program for teens ages 15 to 18, is an apprentice program where teens can explore positions in FMWR facilities, like the Bowling Center, Golf Course, Community Club, Outdoor Recreation, Library, Marketing Office, and more.

The program will give teens guidance on preparing a resume, and teach them interview techniques as well as give them work experience in their chosen field. Children will receive a stipend for their work at the end of the term.

For more details, contact Jay Mckinney, at Jay.a.mckinney@us.army. mil or call 410-278-3250.

APG presents Get Down with the **Browns of Comedy**

Steve Brown will host "Get Down with the Browns of Comedy" and include performances by Pat, Benji and Cocoa Brown, 8 p.m., July 25, at the Post Theater. Doors open 7 p.m.

The Browns are not related but they are headlining comedians on tour. The "Meet the Browns of Comedy" tour brings together an entertainingly diverse group of comedians that will bring audiences to their knees with tireless laughter.

Tickets cost \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. This event is open to the public. Must be 18 years and older to attend.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4011, FMWR Leisure Travel Office, building 3326, or call

410-436-2713, Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140.

Partial closure of Hoyle Fitness Center

Parts of the Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210, will be closed for a few weeks so that all of the hardwood floors in the facility can be refinished.

Areas that will be closed include the issue room, basketball court, racquetball courts, weight area (behind the issue room), nautilus room, cardio room, boxing area, men's new locker rooms, ladies locker room and the sauna.

Patrons can enter the Hoyle Gymnasium on the east side (parking lot side) of the building about 50 feet to the right of the current entrance. The south side of the facility will remain operational during this work.

The hours of operation will remain the same, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Hearts Apart Support Group meets Aug. 5

Hearts Apart Support Group is one way to stay connected in the community and learn what Army Community Service has to offer the Family. Family members from all branches of service, DoD civilians and contractors may participate in Hearts Apart Support Group meetings held in the APG Army Community Service building 2754, Rodman Road 6 to 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month (Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2).

Phyllis Ethridge, ACS relocation readiness program specialist, will discuss how to be an effective sponsor at the July 1 meeting.

Open to all DoD ID card holder Fam-

For more information or to RSVP, contact Ethridge, 410-278-2464/7572.

ACS provides Operation R.E.A.D.Y. Training for Families

The Army Community Service Mobilization/Deployment Program provides Operation R.E.A.D.Y. training specifically to provide support, guidance, assistance and training in all aspects of Family support issues and services.

Classes will be held 6 to 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

• July 21, Financial Planning for Deployment

Spouse Battlemind Training

For more information, call the Mobilization/Deployment Office, 410-278-2453/7572.

Walt Disney World Salutes the **Military**

Walt Disney World is offering active duty military and retirees a free complimentary five-day park hopper and water park ticket and up to five five-day companion tickets for just \$99 each, or an upgrade to a hopper for \$124 each.

Tickets cost \$25 extra for each addon/upgrade applied. Tickets must be purchased three weeks in advance. Tickets are not valid until activated at the theme park ticket window. Valid military ID is required at time of purchase and activation. All sales are final. No refunds, exchanges or upgrades after purchase.

Ticket prices expire Dec. 23.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4011/4907 or visit the AA Recreation Center, building 3326.

SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. Open to all DoD ID card holders. For an appointment, e-mail stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil.

Self Defense Boot Camp

Self Defense Boot Camp will be taught by U.S.K.B.A. Fighter Kyo Sa Nim Sean Williams.

Students will be taught techniques from karate, kickboxing, judo and aikido. Techniques include blocking and hand techniques; karate kicks and footwork; kickboxing; throws and joint manipulation; judo and aikido.

Self Defense Boot Camp will be held for ages 6 through 13 at the Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522, 7 to 8 p.m., July 17 through 30. Cost is \$35 per student.

Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited so register early.

Introduction to Tae Kwon Do

Join the Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG. Tae Kwon Do promotes discipline, as well as muscle toning and conditioning.

Introduction to Tae Kwon Do classes will be held for ages 6 through 13 at Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Aug. 17 through 20. Cost is \$45 per student. Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited so register early.

Classes will be taught by instructor U.S.K.B.A. Fighter Kyo Sa Nim Sean Williams.

American Kickboxing

SKIES Unlimited offers American Kickboxing, taught by instructor U.S.K.B.A. Fighter Kyo Sa Nim Sean Williams.

American Kickboxing is also called Full-Contact Kickboxing. It differs from Muay Thai or Thai Boxing in that kicks to legs, elbow, and knee strikes are not allowed in competition.

Kickboxing promotes body toning, increase flexibility, and increase concentration levels, positive self-confidence level and self-discipline. Kickboxing Enhances martial art ability, fighting ability, and selfdefense ability with strength and power.

American Kickboxing classes will be held for ages 10 through 18 at the Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522, 7 to 8 p.m., Aug. 17 through 20. Cost is \$35 per student.

Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited so register early.

Toddler Art

Calling all young Picassos. Toddler Art lessons will be given 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Wednesdays, through July 29, for ages 2 through 4 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Hands-on creativity is the theme as children explore paint, clay, color, texture and shapes. Dress little ones in old clothes or smock and be prepared for a messy good time. Parent participation required.

Cost is \$60 per student for eight

Private piano lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given for ages 4 thru 18, 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., on Mondays, through Aug. 10 (no class July 13). Lessons cost \$102 per student and include six weeks of 30-minute lessons once a week. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child. Students are responsible for purchasing the required books for the course recommended by the instructor.

SAT preparation classes offered

Child, Youth and School Services will hold Scholastic Aptitude Test preparation classes, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., July 20 through 24, at CYSS Administrative

ily members.

Students can be a step ahead for the SAT. Classes will assist students in sharpening the verbal skills needed for being successful when taking the SAT. The class also prepares students for the SAT math exam, covering basic math skills including algebra and geometry. Problem solving, reasoning and test-tak-

ing techniques will also be covered. Classes cost \$175 per student and includes textbook.

Ice skating lessons

SKIES Unlimited offers comprehensive group lesson program ice skating lessons for ages 4 through 18. Classes will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, July 2 through Aug. 11 at Ice World in Abingdon.

Ice World's philosophy is to provide top notch, professional instruction for beginner through advanced skaters in a relaxed and fun environment. Learn to Skate is based on the fundamentals of the United States Figure Skating Association and is necessary for those wishing to proceed on to ice hockey or freestyle.

Each session includes six weeks of professional instruction; each session is 30 minutes long with 30-minute practice and weekly free skate rentals. Class sizes are limited and are grouped by age and ability. Three free passes to public sessions are included.

Ice skating classes cost \$110 per student. There will be no make-up classes or refunds.

Driver's Ed

Driver's Ed classes will be held; Aug. 3 thru 18 (there is no class on federal holidays), Monday thru Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.; 2:30 to 5:45 p.m.; or 6 to 9:15 p.m. Cost is \$315 per student.

All Drivers Education classes are conducted by Rules Driving School, Inc. Classes will be held in Aberdeen at the Community Center, 34 N. Philadelphia Boulevard, room 304.

Classes include 30 hours classroom instruction and 6 hours behind the wheel instruction.

The last day to register for the class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between the ages of 15.9 and 18 years old. Parents must attend the first day of class. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

Drawing, sketching

Drawing and sketching classes will be held 10 to 11:30 a.m., Mondays and Thursdays, through July 30, for ages 10 to 15 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Students will explore the concepts of value, proportion, perspective, composition, and foreshortening in this drawing class. Class topics include materials used in drawing and sketching, memory drawing, contour drawing, grid drawing, tonal drawing and matting of completed works.

Students are required to have an 11- x 14-inch drawing pad.

Class costs \$120 per student for eight

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at www.apgmwr.com.

All jobs for Aberdeen Proving Ground are listed at http://acpol. army.mil/employment/naf.htm or check out AAFES Jobs link http:// odin.aafes.com/employment/ for additional job opportunities.

Offices, building 2752 Rodman Road for students in grades 9 through 12. • Throughout the month of July bowl and 31: From 5 to 9 p.m., bowling costs

The Auto Craft Shop, building 2379, offers auto detailing for SUVs, cars, trucks and more.

Auto Craft Shop detailing services

Packages include:

#1: Washing vehicle, vacuuming, dressing vinyl windows and tires

- Cars, \$20
- Jeep Wrangler or small truck, \$25 • SUV or large truck, \$30
- #2: Washing, waxing, dressing vinyl windows and tires

• Cars, \$55

- Jeep Wrangler or small truck, \$60 SUV or large truck, \$65

#3: Complete detailing Includes engine cleaning, vacuum-

ing carpet, dressing all vinyl, hand washing and drying exterior, cleaning inside and outside windows, door jams, trunk or cargo area, dressing tires and wheels, leather conditioning, exterior waxing, oxidation and compounding exterior.

- Cars, \$115
- Jeep Wrangler, trucks or SUV, \$140

Individual services include exterior washing

- Car, \$10
- Jeep Wrangler or small truck, \$15
- SUV or large truck, \$15

Other services include

- Cleaning windows, \$1 per window
- Engine cleaning, \$10 • Shampoo carpet, \$50 to \$75
- Motorcycle, \$10 • Washing and waxing car, \$35
- Vacuuming car, \$5 • Chrome wheel polish, \$10

The Auto Craft Shop is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday; Saturday by appointment only; and closed on Sundays. For more information, call 410-278-5178.

July bowling specials

- for \$1.25 each game, 1 to 3 p.m. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Cosmic Saturday on July 18 and 25: one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one pitcher of soda for \$32.
 - Family Fun Days on July 17, 24 closed on Sundays.
- \$1.75 per game per person plus \$1 for

The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday thru Thursday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday; and 4 to 10 p.m., Saturday. The Bowling Center is

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday thru Thursday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday; and 4 to 10 p.m., Saturday; the Bowling Center is closed on Sundays.

Week of July 13

Special #1: Double bacon cheeseburger with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.95.

Special #2: Crab cake sub with French fries, coleslaw, cookie and regular soda for \$11.95.

Week of July 20

Special #1: Egg salad sandwich, potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$4.25.

Special #2: Chicken tender wrap with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.25.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.



Former APG Garrison commander reflects on career, Army, APG, NCOs

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**APG News

Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, former Aberdeen Proving Ground garrison and deputy installation commander, who relinquished his command July 10, will not officially retire until Oct. 31. He said that while he is looking forward to the next phase of his life, he feels greatly honored to have had the opportunity to serve his country.

Weissman is retiring after almost 27 years in the military.

"I wouldn't have stayed in (so long) if I didn't love it," he said. "I not only enjoyed it but I felt honored to serve Soldiers in the Army. There is not much about my career I would change."

Weissman, who took his position in 2007, oversaw many changes at APG over the past two years due to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law.

He said that he has taken pleasure in seeing improvements being made to the facilities on post and seeing projects being completed like the Route 715 Gate that was finished in May and was the first BRAC project to be completed.

Weissman, who grew up in New York, was commissioned as an officer in 1983 after attending West Point. He said that originally he intended to only stay in the military for five years and then pursue an engineering career, but decided to stay in the Army after he grew to love it.

"After five years, I enjoyed doing what I was doing so much that I decided to stay," he said. "I enjoyed serving Soldiers."

Weissman said that he is proud that he had the opportunity to be able to command at the company, battalion and brigade levels and that there were many people who have inspired him over the course of his career.

"So many people have helped me; I have been blessed with some really great leaders," he said.

Weissman said that some of the leaders who influenced him include retired Col. Steve Fondacarro, special operations officer; retired General B.B. Bell, commanding general of U.S. Forces Korea; Gen. Charles "Hondo" Campbell the commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command; Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command and the first woman in U.S. military and uniformed service history to achieve a four-star officer grade; and Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson, former commander of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and APG.

Weissman said that he is glad this year is designated to be the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, as they are vitally important to officers.



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, outgoing Aberdeen Proving Ground garrison and deputy installation commander, gives remarks during his change of command ceremony held at Fanshaw field July 11. Picured in front row from left is Weissman's Family: Ashley, Nickie, Rachel, Ben, Erin and Vickie L. Brockman, Weissman's wife, and the ceremony's host, Russell B. Hall, director of the Installation Management Command Northeast Region.

"I think that NCOs are incredibly important; they are intelligent professionals, truly the backbone of the Army," he said. "Without NCOs, the Army wouldn't run. Our NCOs are an incredible resource and are the envy of the rest of the world."

He added that he had learned a lot from several NCOs including his current Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez and his former platoon Sergeant 1st Class James Walker.

"When I was a first lieutenant he [Walker] taught me how to be an officer," he said.

Weissman said that while serving at APG he enjoyed working closely with Rodriguez.

"We [started] on the same day, and we are going out on the same day, by design," he said.

Weissman said that while at APG both he and Rodriguez worked to improve the quality of life issues on post. He said that the Well-Being Action Council meetings, which occur monthly on a rotating basis in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas, have been a good forum for the APG community to share their concerns with leadership and to share information.

"Any issues brought to us were tasked out and were brought back up at the next meeting," he said. "The APG News also reports on the meetings, so that those who were unable to attend the meetings can read what was discussed."

Weissman added that he feels that the sense of community has improved on

post and appreciates the level of commitment that the APG organizations have invested in local schools.

"We have incredible volunteers who make APG a great place to live and work," he said.

Looking back, he said that he appreciates opportunities that the Army has given him, professionally and personally.

"The Army has given me great chances to see the world," he said.

Weissman said that he has seen improvements in the Army over the course of his career, and that he is proud of the progress that has been made.

Weissman added that the equipment and technology that the Army uses have vastly improved since he began, which has led to greater efficiency in the Army.

These advances are vitally important to the missions of the organizations on post, as APG is one of the nation's premier technology centers, and will be even more so in the future, he said.

Weissman gave an example of the construction of the Command, Control, Communications, and Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, or Army Team C4ISR, campus, which began last year and is well underway. Moving Army Team C4ISR here is one reason that APG will become a Center of Excellence by September 2011, he said.

Weissman concluded by saying that this is an exciting time to be working at APG.

"I am glad I can be a small part of the great changes that have happened at APG. There are still many more changes that will occur that will improve the quality of life on the installation. The completion of all the BRAC projects over the next two years will be very exciting. I feel very lucky to have been able to serve here and appreciate the support of the garrison leadership and support of the community at large," Weissman said.

"The Army is also doing everything it possibly can to support the Soldiers and their Families through programs and initiatives and pay and benefits that are commensurate with service," he said.

Weissman said that he is looking forward to the next phase in his life and that he is currently deciding on a second career with the desire to work for the government.

After he retires, he said he will relocate to Huntsville, Ala., which is close to Redstone Arsenal.

"I want to support the Soldiers whether it is in the government or the private sector," he said.

After moving 11 times in his career he said that he appreciates the sacrifices that his six children and his wife have made while he was serving in the

"They have learned to be adaptive to new situations and to quickly make friends," he said, "but my wife and I are looking forward to settling down. We decided that this was a good time."

Command

From front page

We wish you and your wife the best as you transition to a new way of life. We thank you for your sacrifice and your commitment to the Soldiers."

Hall added that he is confident that Ortiz is capable of the task ahead of him.

"We found the best guy we can to take over the mantle of this garrison command. He has great combat experience. He has been a commander of a battalion in combat, so he comes here knowing exactly what is needed for the Soldiers down range," he said.

Hall said that he is looking forward to working with Ortiz in the future.

During Weissman's remarks, he said that the garrison is filled with many talented dedicated people who have worked together to solve problems, develop plans and work together for the good of all.

Weissman said that much was accomplished by the garrison command, which could not have happened without the leaders and employees of APG.

"Today we have not only executed a BRAC plan but a 2012 vision that not only addresses BRAC inbound organizations but address the needs of the entire APG community that focuses on the quality of life for all those who live and serve on APG," Weissman said. "I am proud of what APG has accomplished during our short term," he said. "What we have done we have accomplished as a team. It could not have happened without leaders and the employees of the garrison APG."

Weissman said that it has been a pleasure to get to know Ortiz and said he is an outstanding leader and officer and a great person.

"APG is lucky to have Colonel Ortiz as its next garrison commander," he said.

During Ortiz's remarks he said that he is honored to serve as the garrison commander and deputy installation commander, and vowed to give his all to support APG.

"I am overwhelmed with a sense of pride and humility to be afforded the opportunity to command once again. Command of any unit is a privilege and a responsibility," he said.

Ortiz concluded his remarks by thanking Weissman for his service.

"You deserve to be proud. You served well," he said.

Ortiz added that he is looking forward to working closely with his command team.

"As a team, I have no doubt that we will succeed," he said.

Providing support for the ceremony was Chaplain (Col.) Ruben D. Colon, who gave the invocation, and music was provided by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frederick L. Ellwein, The color guard was from Headquarters and Headquarters led by Sgt. Larry C. Tyson.

Col. Orlando W. Ortiz

Ortiz was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army on 16 May 1987. He is a career intelligence officer originally from Newark, N.J.

His most recent assignments were as the director of Foreign Intelligence, G2, Headquarters, Department of the Army; commander of the 303d, Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas, during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2006-2008; and chief of Operations for Intelligence (C2), III Armored Corps during Iraqi Freedom II.



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

From left, Jeffrey S. Weissman, outgoing garrison commander, Russell B. Hall, director of the Installation Management Command Northeast Region, and Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, incoming garrison commander, during the change of command ceremony held at Fanshaw Field July 11.

He has served in a variety of tactical command and staff positions in light infantry, airborne, armor, and special forces units at battalion, brigade/ group, and division level. He has had two tours to Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division serving as the Battalion S2 of the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry (Currahee), and as the Brigade S2, 1st Brigade (Iron Brigade). He also served as the Battalion S2 and later the Military Intelligence Detachment commander for 2nd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky., and the senior intelligence officer for the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.

Ortiz has held multiple positions within the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, at Fort Bragg, N.C., including the battalion executive officer for the 519th

Military Intelligence Battalion (Airborne), chief of the Analysis and Control Element, 319th Military Intelligence Battalion. He also served as the G2 for the Free Iraqi Forces training initiative (Task Force Warrior) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Previously assigned to the Military District of Washington, he served as a military analyst at the Defense Intelligence Agency specializing in the Middle East. Additionally, he served as the assistant G3 for Operations, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Belvoir, Va. His military schools include

the Military Intelligence Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He has a bachelor of science degree in computer science from Wagner College, a master's in aviation science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a master's degree in national resource strategy from the National Defense University.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal. His decorations include the Joint Staff Identification Badge, the U.S. Army Ranger Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Egyptian Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.